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Message Text

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46
ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAM-01 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

RSC-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01

DRC-01 /097 W
---------- 050907
R 311215Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8106
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 4458

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR SA, XF
SUBJ: MINISTER OF INTERIOR PRINCE FAHD DISCUSSES BOUNDARY
SETTLEMENT WITH ABU DHABI

SUMMARY: A PLEASED AND SELF-CONFIDENT PRINCE FAHD TOLD AMBASSADOR AND DCM JULY 30 THAT INITIALING BORDER AGREEMENT WITH ABU DHABI WAS HAPPY CONCLUSION OF SIX MONTHS VERY SECRET NEGOTIATIONS. ESCHEWING PRESSURE OR ANY THREAT OF FORCE, FAHD SAID HE HAD DRAWN ON HIS PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH ZAYED. SAUDI ARABIA HAD ACHIEVED ITS OBJECTIVES IN ZARARA OIL FIELDS AND PASSAGEWAY TO GULF AND, IN GENERAL, ENHANCED ITS POSITION IN THE GULF.
END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR ACCOMPANIED BY DCM CALLED UPON MINISTER OF INTERIOR PRINCE FAHD JULY 30 TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON RE-
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SOLVING SAUDI ARABIA'S COMPLEX AND LONG-STANDING BOUNDARY

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DISPUTE WITH ABU DHABI. THIS, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THE PRINCE'S ROLE IN PERSUADING BAHRAIN TO RETAIN MIDEASTFOR WAS TO THE U.S. A GRATIFYING AND IMPRESSIVE RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT.

2. FAHD WAS PLEASED. HE HAD ASKED THE KING SIX MONTHS AGO TO LET HIM TRY HIS HAND AT RESOLVING THE ABU DHABI DISPUTE. HE HAD TOLD THE KING THAT IF HE WERE SUCCESS-FUL, IT WAS ALL TO THE GOOD; IF HE FAILED, HE WOULD BE IN GOOD COMPANY - JORDAN, EGYPT, SUDAN, SOMALIA AND KING ABDUL AZIZ HIMSELF.

3. FAHD DECIDED FIRST HE MUST WORK IN ABSOLUTE SECRECY THROUGH THE FEWEST POSSIBLE INTERMEDIARIES (CHIEF AMONG WHOM WAS THE UAE AMBASSADOR TO LONGON, MEHDI TAJER). THIS TACTIC, FAHD SAID, HE HAD LEARNED FROM STUDYING THE CAREER OF SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER.

4. SECOND, FAHD HAD APPEALED TO SHEIKH ZAYED ON THE BASIS OF THE PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THEM. HE HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT SAUDI ARABIA'S DEMARCHE WAS DEVOID OF PRESSURE OR ANY THREAT OF FORCE. FAHD BELIEVED KING ABDUL AZIZ HAD COMMITTED A SERIOUS ERROR IN USING FORCE OVER THE BURAIMI DISPUTE. SAUDI ARABIA, HE SAID, COULD NOT REPEAT THIS ERROR BECAUSE IT WAS MILITARILY WEAK IN THE EASTERN PROVINCE AND WULD BE OPENING DOORS TO COMPLICA-TIONS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE FROM IRAQ OR EVEN IRAN.

5. THE TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT FAHD SAID WERE MOST SAT-ISFACTORY: SAUDI ARABIA HAD OBTAINED ITS OBJECTIVES WITH REGARD TO THE DISPUTED ZARARA OIL FIELD AND HAD OBTAINED ALSO A PASSAGEWAY TO THE GULF.

6. FAHD SPOKE WARMLY OF THE SIGNING CEREMONY. SHEIKH ZAYED HAD MADE IT CLEAR THE BOUNDARY DEMARKATION WAS MERELY A FORMALITY. IN FACT, THERE WERE "NO SUCH THINGS AS BOUNDARIES ON THE ARABIAN PENINSULA SINCE ALL OF THE STATES WERE MERELY BRANCHES ON THE GREAT TREE OF THEIR FATHER FAISAL." BECAUSE OF THE SAUDI-ABU DHABI AGREEMENT, MOREOVER, SHEIKH ZAYED SAID HIS TRIP TO IRAQ THAT DAY

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WOULD NOW BE NOTHING MORE THAN A COURTESY CALL WITHOUT SUBSTANCE WHATEVER.

7. FAHD HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY PLEASED IN ABU DHABI BY THE WARMTH AND OBVIOUS SINCERITY OF AMBASSADOR STERNER'S CONGRATULATIONS. BY CONTRAST, FAHD SAID, THE FACE OF THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR WAS "BLACK."

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8. COMMENT: THROUGHOUT HIS DISCUSSION OF THE ABU DHABI SETTLEMENT FAHD SPOKE WITH AN AUTHORITY, WHICH IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY APPARENT AND WHICH IS FAR GREATER THAN HE DISPLAYED AS RECENTLY AS A YEAR AGO. IN HIS REFERENCE TO SAUDI ARABIAN MILITARY STRENGTH IN THE EASTERN PROVINCE, HE TWICE SPOKE OF "MY ARMIES" AND "MY FORCES."
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